

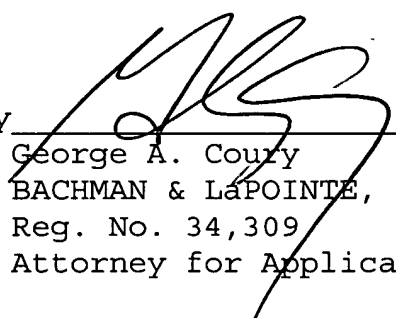
REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

By the present amendment, multiple dependent claims have been removed.

An early action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By


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I, Rhonda B. Longo, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on August 21, 2006.



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